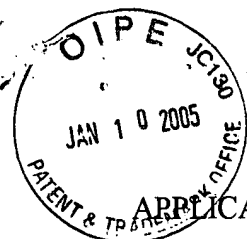


PATENTS *IFW*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



APPLICANTS: Kaneyoshi HAYASHI ET AL. - 1

SERIAL NO.: 10/762,761

EXAMINER: ERIC K. NICHOLSON

FILED: JANUARY 22, 2004

GROUP: 3679

TITLE: FLANGE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Dear Sir:

Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Patent Examiner the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and attached thereto along with their English translations.

I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in the communication dated November 29, 2004 from a foreign patent office (European) in a counterpart foreign application (EP 04 00 1375) not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement. Therefore, because this statement is being filed after the first office action but before a final office action or notice of allowance, it is believed that no fee is due. However, if it is determined that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2468 or to credit any overpayment in connection with this IDS. It is respectfully requested that the foregoing IDS be incorporated into the official file of the present patent application.

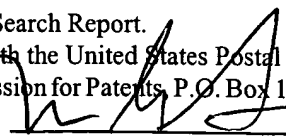
Respectfully submitted,
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Attorneys for Applicant

Enclosures: PTO-1449 form, three (3) references, European Search Report.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: AMENDMENT, Commission for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 7, 2005


Maria Guastella

FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY. DOCKET NO. : HAYASHI, K et al.-1		SERIAL NO. 10/762,761	
		APPLICANT : Hayashi, K.			
		FILING DATE: January 22, 2004		GROUP:	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	3,895,833	07/1975				
	AB	2,749,149	06/1956				
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	102 03 854	08/2003	GERMANY				X
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
	AR		
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.